Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What are the adequate grounds the Government wants?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—With regard to that I want notice.

President.—Some people want these shops. What are we to do? We must locate shops near them. We have to take these things to the door as we do in the case of education. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—We locate shops at places where they are easily accessible.

President.—What will be the result, if no shops are allowed to be opened in the State?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—If there are no shops, people will manufacture and use illicit liquor.

President.—Suppose we use a detective force to prevent the illicit manufacture, what will be the result?

Mr. V. B Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Detection and manufacture and drinking of illicit liquor will be going on side by side.

President.—The question is whether it is a considerable difficulty.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It is very difficult.

President.—There are certain things which could not be got rid of. For example, I do not chew tobacco. My friends may want those necessities. Unless they make up their minds that they will not use tobacco at all, they will not be able to put a stop to the practice. How far the anti-drink campaign has succeeded in America, we do not know. The people there wanted to introduce Prohibition. Some think it is successful.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I will give you the information that you require.

118. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to mention:—

(a) whether any petition or representation has been received from the ladies of Kunnamkulam for removing all liquor shops from within Kunnamkulam Town limits; and if so,

(b) how many have been received within the last 18 months;

(c) when and from whom they were received;

(d) how many petitions and representations were received from the people of Kunnamkulam, including ladies, within the last 18 months, for removing all liquor shops from within the town limits;

(e) when and from whom they were received?

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Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) Yes.

(b) Two.

(c) March 1925 and February 1926—From the Hony. Secretary, Y. W. C. A., Kunnamkulam.

(d) Three.

(e) One from the Secretary, Y. M. C. A. Social Service Committee, in November 1925. For the other two, vide answer to part (c).

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What action has been taken by the Government with regard to those petitions?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—This question involves the principle of Local Option. The question will be considered, after the Excise Committee submits its Report.

President.—No order has been passed for the time being.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Has not the Travancore Government adopted the policy of Local Option?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—No, Sir.

President.—What about Local Option in British India?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—In the Madras Presidency, Local Option in its wider sense has not been adopted.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is the Madras Government against Local Option?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The Madras Government has not passed any orders upon the recommendations of the recent Excise Advisory Committee.

President.—Probably the Report is under consideration.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—And even in the Report, what the majority of the members say with regard to Local Option is that they are not for introducing it in its wider sense. It is, therefore, premature to say what the view of the Madras Government is in regard to Local Option.

The location of liquor shops.

119. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) how many of the liquor shops in the State are located within two furlongs from places of markets, schools, places of public worship, hospitals, factories, public houses, railway stations and similar places of public resort;

(b) whether the Government is aware that a departmental circular order has been issued in Travancore that no arrack or toddy shops should be located within two furlongs of such places of public resort;

(c) whether our Government has issued any such circular; and if not,

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